

strong, well-managed county to being one of the very best local governments in the Nation. I applaud Ms. Simon's commitment to the people of Washoe County and all of Northern Nevada. She serves as a shining example for all Nevadans, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.●

#### REMEMBERING GEORGE AMES

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor CPL George Ames, a hero from the Korean War.

George was born in Pennsylvania and at age 16, he talked his mother into signing a form so he could enlist in the Army Cavalry. In 1951, George was deployed to Korea where he fought for 2 years. He was wounded three times and eventually was flown to a military hospital in Japan. George did not talk much about his time in Korea but did show his daughter a flag he had made when he was in the hospital in Japan. The flag had a map on it which showed all of the places in Korea where he had fought.

When he returned home, George spent 16 years as a military police officer in El Paso, TX.

In 1971, he moved to Montana and served as the sheriff of Sweet Grass County in Big Timber for 20 years.

George was one of the first sheriffs in Montana to bring the Drug Abuse Resistance Education—DARE—program to his county schools. He also was one of the first sheriffs to bring the FBI's Child Find program to help schools put kids' fingerprints and pictures into a booklet for parents.

George passed away in 2011, but it was my honor to present the honors he earned to his widow Clara and his granddaughter Meggin. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented CPL George Ames' Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp, National Defense Service Medal, and Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars.

I also had the honor of presenting George's widow Clara and his granddaughter Meggin the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award and the United National Service Medal.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget George Ames' heroism.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEONARD

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor TSgt Norman Leonard, a hero from World War II and the Korean War.

Norman was born in 1925 in North Jackson, OH.

In 1943, Norman enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served on the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill. During his 2 years in the South China Sea, Norman was involved in 11 major battles.

Two days after he left the Bunker Hill, the carrier was hit by two kamikazes and over 400 servicemen were killed.

Private First Class Leonard returned to the United States and joined the Air Force. He deployed to Germany where he served with the Allied Forces from 1948 until 1951. From Germany, Norman was Deployed to Taegu, Korea, from 1953 to 1954. In Korea, Staff Sergeant Leonard worked on the F86 fighter bombers.

Twenty years after he enlisted in the Air Force, Norman retired.

He went to Bible school and worked as a pastor in Nebraska, Colorado, and Minnesota.

Norman and his wife moved to Billings 15 years ago to be close to their son and grandchildren.

Earlier this month, it was my honor to present Norman his Korean War Service Medal and his Official Citation from the Republic of South Korea on the 50th Anniversary of the War.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget Norman Leonard's heroism.●

#### REMEMBERING MICHAEL MERRILL

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor PO1 Michael Merrill, a sailor who fought in Vietnam.

Michael grew up in Outlook, MT, and went to Butte in 1961 to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He was sent to Millington, TN, for training at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South base. In Tennessee, he met his future bride, Barbara, whom he married in 1964. Barbara said she always wanted to be in the service, and for her, helping take care of Michael was her way of contributing to our country.

Michael traveled back and forth between San Diego and Millington until 1969 when he received orders to deploy to the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-La as a jet mechanic. The Shangri-La was posted in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

For his service during the war, Michael earned the Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

After Vietnam, Michael and Barbara headed back to Miramar Naval Air Station before a tour on the USS Midway in Japan. Michael's last posting was to Whidbey Island in Washington where he worked with a helicopter squadron.

In 1981, after 20 years in the Navy, Michael retired and moved home. In Billings, he worked various jobs, including working at a tire supply company.

Michael passed away in 2009, but it was my honor to present the honors he earned to his widow Barbara. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented PO1 Michael Merrill's Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

I also had the honor of presenting to Michael's widow Barbara, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Navy "E" Ribbon, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with the 1960 device.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

They are presented on behalf of a nation that will never forget Michael Merrill's heroism.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 807. An act to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 807. An act to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; to the Committee on Finance.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1441. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2012 Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessments from the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the three national security laboratory directors, and the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (DCN OSS No. 2013-0648); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1442. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith M. Huber, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.